WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Renovation of Mahabodhi temple complex

644. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Mahabodhi temple complex, holiest shrine of Buddhism, is in a state of disrepair, amidst garbage and sewage and facilities are non existent;

(b) whether it is a fact that the toilets in the complex are in a sorry state and none is W.C. or disabled friendly; and

(c) if so, the step Government propose to take to renovate the temple complex?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Mahabodhi temple at Bodhgaya is not a centrally protected monument. It is managed by the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee constituted under Bodhgaya Temple Act, 1949. In the year 2000 the temple management committee approached ASI to take up conservation measures and an estimate was approved for Rs. 34,83,300/- against which Rs. 20.00 lakh was deposited by the committee with Archaeological Survey of India. Some items of works indicated in the approved estimate have been executed and more conservation measures are envisaged according to the revised estimate for Rs. 51,76,000/- approved in July, 2005.

The day to day maintenance of the temple complex, toilets, providing of basic facilities and care of general cleanliness is the responsibility of the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee, which is under the control of Government of Bihar. The toilet facilities available in the temple complex are in a good state of maintenance.

Preservation of historical documents

645. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that historic documents lying in official custodian of the National Archives are not properly preserved;